



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

Firearms & Explosives Imports Branch



William E. Majors
Branch Chief

Mission Statement

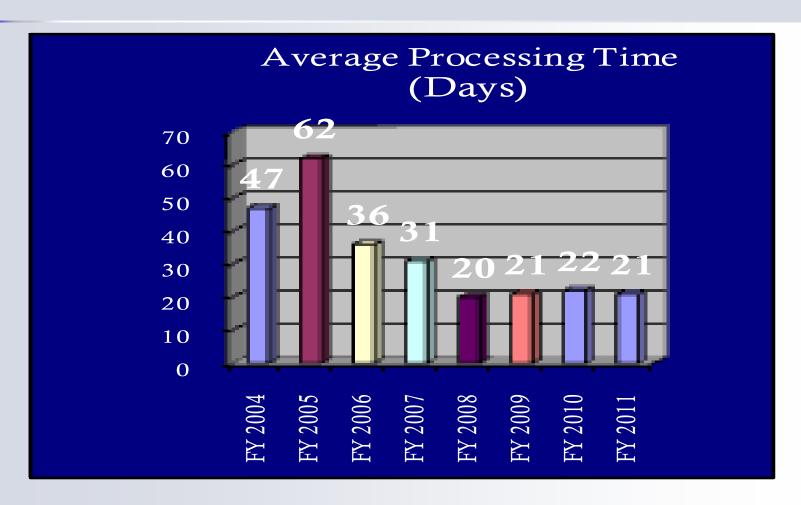
The Firearms & Explosives Imports Branch (FEIB) is responsible for fulfilling ATF statutory responsibilities relative to the import provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968, the National Firearms Act, and the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 by processing applications for the importation of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and implements of war. The FEIB ensures that the applications are processed and perfected in a timely manner in accordance with ATF regulations. The mission of the FEIB is to ensure that import applications are completed in accordance with established Federal import regulations in an effort to prevent terrorism, reduce violent crime, and to protect the public from criminal acts.

ATF F6 Processing Times

Fiscal Year	0~10 Days	11~30 Days	31~45 Days	45+ Days
2007	36%	50%	6%	7%
2008	25%	64%	7%	4%
2009	20%	64%	11%	5%
2010	20%	59%	14%	7%
2011	21%	62%	11%	4%

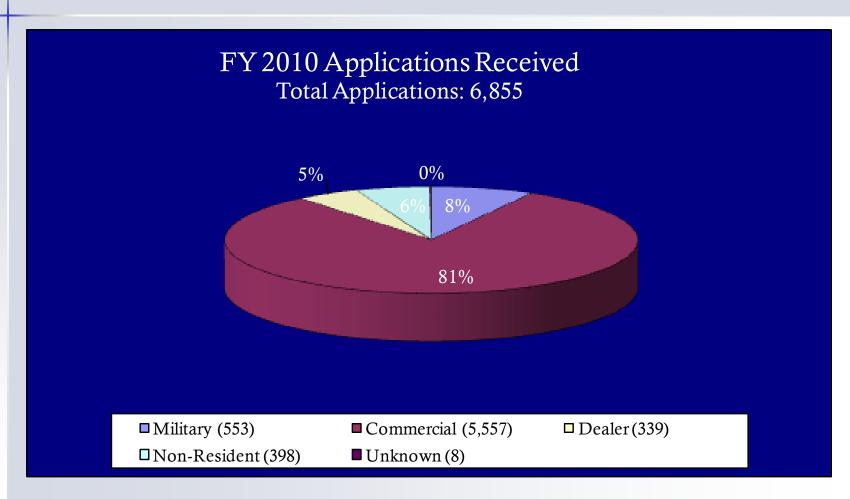
This chart represents the total number of import applications received and the time in which they are processed.

Import Permit ATF Form 6 Parts I & II Average Processing Time (Days)



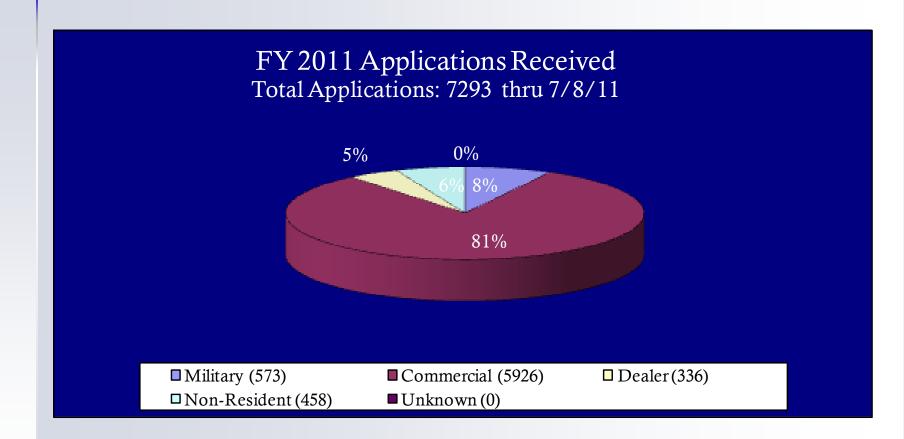
Source: FEIS database

Import Permit ATF Form 6 Parts I & II



Source: FEIS database

Import Permit ATF Form 6 Parts I & II



Source: FEIS database

Number of Non-immigrant Alien (NIA) Applications Received

2006 - 7,035

2007 - 6,755

2008 - 6,141

2009 - 6,156

2010 - 7,228

2011 - 5,293 (As of 7/8/11)

IMPORTS OF AP AMMO FOR EXPERIMENTATION/TESTING

- Authorization from the Firearms and Explosives Services Division must be obtained prior to submitting a Form 6 to import AP ammo for experimentation/testing. This authorization request should be in letter form.
- The letter must include all of the required information outlined in 27 CFR 478.149:
- The name and addresses of the persons directing or controlling, directly or indirectly, the policies and management of the applicant;
- The nature or purpose of the testing or experimentation;
- A description of the AP ammo to be received;
- The identity of the manufacturer or importer from whom such ammunition is to be received.

IMPORTS OF AP AMMO FOR EXPERIMENTATION/TESTING

- Once the importer has received approval from FESD, the Form 6 may be submitted with the approval letter attached.
- If all of the information required by 27 CFR 478.149 is not included in your authorization request, your letter will be returned to you for further information.

COMMON ERRORS NOTED ON IMPORTED AP AMMUNITION

- The "armor piercing" ammunition that an importer may seek to import for testing is not always armor piercing ammunition by legal definition. For an example, .50 AP is not armor piercing by GCA definition because no handguns are chambered for that round.
- If a request lists many types of armor piercing ammunition to be brought in from several different suppliers/importers, the letter must be specific as to who is bringing in which ammunition and in what amounts.

ATF FORM 6A

- •27 CFR 478.112(c) and (d) cite the proper method for filing ATF Form 6As.
- The Imports Branch will forward referrals to ATF Field offices for improperly executed ATF Form 6As. Field offices may cite violations for 6As completed improperly when errors are disclosed during field investigations.

27 CFR 478.112(c)

Imposes an additional requirement on all registered and FFL (Type 08 or 11) importers. In addition to the ATF Forms 6 and 6A already required to obtain the release of firearms, firearms parts, or ammunition, you must also present to CBP officials a copy of the export license authorizing the export of the articles from the country of export. If the exporting country does not require the issuance of an export license, you instead must present a certification, signed under penalties of perjury, attesting to that effect.

27 CFR 478.112(d)

- Within 15 days of the date of release from Customs custody, the licensed importer must:
- (1) Forward to the address specified on the form a copy of ATF Form 6A on which must be reported any error or discrepancy appearing on the ATF Form 6A certified by Customs and serial numbers if not previously provided on ATF Form 6A;
- (2) Pursuant to §478.92, place all required identification data on each imported firearm if they did not bear such identification at the time of release from Customs custody; and
- (3) Post in the records required to be maintained by the importer under subpart H of this part all required information regarding the importation.

- We have been actively working on reconciling ATF Forms
 6A that we receive against the corresponding Forms 6.
- When a particular 6A cannot be data-entered we place that form in a problem folder.
- As time permits, we examine that 6A as well as all problem 6A's submitted by a particular importer for the past two years.
- We document the errors that are found and contact the importer for resolution.
- The most common errors we find are:
- Block #6 Permit number this item is often blank, incorrect or contains more than one ATF Form 6 permit number

- When a Form 6 is approved, each line item on the permit is entered as a separate line item in our database, along with the quantity approved for import.
- When a Form 6A is received, we reconcile that 6A to the corresponding Form 6 in our database and the quantity of defense articles actually imported is decremented from the quantity approved.
- We must have the correct Form 6 permit number in block #6 in order to conduct this reconciliation.

- If you are making an entry for articles approved for import on multiple Forms 6, you must file a SEPARATE Form 6A for the articles imported under each permit. Otherwise, we cannot reconcile the Form 6A to the database.
- Often, in blocks 9a-9c, description, it will state, "see attachment" and there is no attachment.
- Block 9B Description. This description of the articles MUST be the same description used on the corresponding Form 6:

- For example, if there are separate line items on a Form 6 for the same make and model of a particular firearm and the only distinguishing feature is the barrel length and/or overall length, the same information must be reflected in separate line items on the Form 6A. The information on the Form 6 and 6A must match exactly.
- If you bring in parts, we require that each part be listed as a separate line item on the Form 6. Consequently, you must list each part as a separate line item on the Form 6A. You cannot state "Misc. Parts." We cannot reconcile that to the database. You may attach additional sheets as necessary.
- If you bring in ammunition, each type and caliber/gauge is required to be a separate line item on the 6A as it is on the Form 6. For example, if you list "12g/20g/16g" and one quantity, we have no way of knowing how many of each size was imported.

Block 9c – Quantity. The unit of measure must agree to the Form 6 and we need a quantity for each line item imported. For example, if you were approved to import 500kg of smokeless powder on the Form 6 and the Form 6A states that you imported 4 drums – we cannot reconcile the two documents.

- •The Form 6A indicated that "rifle parts only" have been imported
- Only one quantity has been given.
- •The corresponding Form 6 details each part and quantity individually.
- •That detail is also required on the Form 6A.

Federal License No. (if any) Import Permit No. (When importation authorized by permit)		Expiration Date 12/01/2011 7, Telephone No.	Country Where Manufactured Talwan R Gross Value of Shipment (In U.S. dollars)			
						\$25,000
						343,000
2. Shipment of Firearms, Am			24			
Number and Kinds gauge or a weak-seter.		on (name of manufacturer, type of firearm, model, caliber, size, serial mumber, type of ammunition, e.g., ball, incendiary, r, etc.; for differite articles, the Category of the U.S. Munitions at in 27 CFR Part 447 to which they belong)		Quantity Each Type		
10 boxes	AR-15.2	M36 rifle parts only		400 various parts per fe		
to poxes	1			10777		
	Lot # 20	09-16		-1549as		
		1000				
				(4.30)		
10179-0-35	Release From U.S. Custom 11. Customs Entry	or ID No. 12. Type of	Land III communication	Date Released or		
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3. Name and Address of Foreign Shipper

- •The Form 6A has at least two line items with 12g shotguns.
- •The corresponding Form 6 has numerous line items for the same make and model of 12g shotguns
- •The only differentiating feature is the barrel and overall length.
- •We have no way of knowing which specific line items from the Form 6 have been imported without that detail.
- •The description on the Form 6A must match exactly to the corresponding Form 6.

			2. Name and Addr	ess of Foreign Seller
			3. Name and Addr	ess of Foreign Shippe
		Telephone Burn	5. Country Where Manuf	and the state of
4. Federal License No. (If am)		Expiration Date 02/01/2013	Turkey	scrureis
6. Impact Permit No. APhra impo	setation outhorized by	7. Telephone No.	8. Gross Value of Shipme	nt (In U.S. dollars)
 Import Permit No. (When importation outhorised by permit) 		\$35,325.00		
			ariquativo.	
9. Shipment of Firearms, Ammun	AND REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY	distribution of the second sec	officers model college	1
	proupe or a	n (name of manufacturer, type itse, serial number, type of am	monition, e.g., ball, incendiary,	385 882
Number and Kinds	wadcuter,	eta.; for defense articles, the	Category of the U.S. Munitions	Quantity 1
of Packages	Import Lix	t in 27 CFR Part 447 to which	tinty belong)	Type
	7 Tun	np Action 12GA Shotgun		40
	-	op Action 12GA Shotgun		
	7 111	np Action 12GA Sootgun		40
50 Boxes	Tar Pun	1 Pump Action 12GA Shotgon		
	Pur	Pump Action 12GA Shatgun		
		100		165
	Pun Pun	op Action 20GA Shotgun		40
Section II - Certification of Refe	ease From U.S. Custome	and Border Protection		
10. Port of Entry	11, Customs Entry of		Entry Consumption	3. Date Released
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- •The corresponding Form 6 lists each type of primed empty cartridge by caliber/gauge and gives a specific quantity for each
- •We could not data enter this Form 6A based on this description: we need each size of cartridge detailed along with the quantity of each.
- •The description on the Form 6A must match the Form 6.

form for each shipment under the same permit.) Name and Address of Importer			3 Name and Address of For	eien Seller	
Name and Nadress of Importer					
			7		
1.9			3. Name and Address of Fo		
			same as al	sove	
Federal License No. (Hanv) Expiration Date (-1-2013			5. Country, Whete Manufactured		
 Import Per<u>mit No.</u> (When importation author permit) 		7. Telephone No.	8. Gross Value of Shipment		
). Shipment of Firearms, Ammunition and/or					
Number and Kinds of Packages	or size, etc.; for	rtion (name of manufacturer, type of serial number, type of ammunition, or defense articles, the Category of th Pars 447 to which they belong) b	e.g.,ball, incendiary, wadoutter,	Quantity Each Type £	
620 pkgs.	,	imed empty a	<i>J</i>		
ection II - Certification of Release From U.S.			P ⁿ l as	112 Parts Relevand	
0. Port of Entry 11. Custo	oms Entry o	or ID No. 12. Type of Entry Warehouse	Z Consumption	13. Date Released	
I certify that the above articles were authorized released from the custody of the U.S. Custom trade zone. Import Permit Number: Signature of Customs and Border Protection.	s and Borde	tation by the Director, Bureau of Alc rr Protection or were authorized to b	obol, Tobacco, Firearms and Exeremoved from a Customs bon	plosives, and were ded warehouse or for	
ection III - verification of Importation (comp			7	//	
 I have extended the above shipment and foun 					
Contain the firearms, ammunition and/o	r implemen	its of war in the exact quantity and as	described in Item 9 above, or		
Contain the following discrepancies:					
I declare under the penalties provided by law, t	hat this veri	fication of importation is true, correc	ct and complete to the best of m	y knowledge and beli	
and that each firearm is marked and can be iden 19. Signature of Importer	ntified as re	quired by 27 CFR Part 478. 20. Title or Status (Individual, n	nember of firm, if officer of	21. Date	
		and a second sec		9-28-10	

•We often receive Form 6A that state "see attached invoice."

•No invoice was attached to this Form 6A.

d. Endered Finness Ma. (Comp)		Expiration Date	5. Country Where Manufi	actured
				3733337
 Import Permit No. (When importation permit) 	authorized by	7. Telephone No.	8. Gress Value of Shipme	nt (In U.S. dollars)
			\$37,224.92	
. Shipment of Firearms, Ammunition as	d/or Implements	of War		
Number and Kinds of Packages a	Description gauge or wadoutter	on (name of manufacturer, typ size, script number, type of a	nnunition, e.g., ball, incendiary,	Quantity Ear Type
2	Please se	e attached Invoice		1824
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Import Permit Number:				
5. Signature of Customs and Burder Prot	ection Official	16. Title		17. Date
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ction iii - vermeation of importation	(completed by I	icensed importers only)	6.	ulistic
. I have examined the above shipment ar	ed found it to:			
Contain the firearms, arramanition a	ind/or implement	s of war in the exact quantity	and as described in Item 9 above,	or
Contain the following discrepancies	F			
15				
I declare under the penalties provided and that each firearm is marked and ea	by law, that this o	rerification of importation is t	rue, correct and complete to the b	est of my knowledge an
Singstor of Importer)	industry by 71 Ct.W.1.8H 419	ual, member of firm; if officer of	21. Date
		EGENOFATION, Pive Infel	.4	
		EGENOTATION Pice title)	. 1	ATF E-Form 6A

ATF FORM 6A SUBMISSION - THINGS TO REMEMBER

- You will receive two copies of the Form 6A. One copy you leave with CBP they will complete Section II and mail it to ATF. CBP does **not** return this copy to the importer.
- The second copy of the Form 6A, with Section III completed, must be returned by you to ATF within 15 days of release from CBP custody. This copy DOES NOT have to have Section II completed.
- ONLY the <u>licensed and/or registered importer</u> may complete Section III of the 6A. CBP does not return this copy to the importer.

Barrel Lengths- Imported Handguns

- Handguns are evaluated using the Factoring Criteria, ATF F 4590
- Handguns must meet a minimum score to qualify for importation (75 points for pistols and 45 points for revolvers).

Barrel Lengths- Imported Handguns

- For pistols, points are given for barrel and overall length. They must meet a minimum height (4") and length (6").
- Revolvers have similar criteria but in addition, the barrel must be 3" in length at a minimum.
- FTB will accept a barrel length rounded up to the next 1/4".

Barrel Lengths- Rifles and Shotguns

- No point system is utilized when an import evaluation is conducted on a rifle or shotgun.
- Barrels must meet the NFA limit: 16" for a rifle barrel and 18" for a shotgun barrel.
- When FTB conducts an import evaluation, they make the closest barrel measurement they can.

Barrel Lengths- Rifles and Shotguns

- Foreign manufacturers are not always as precise. A specification sheet may indicate that a shotgun has a 20" barrel but the actual length is 20.5".
- In cases where the barrel meets the minimum requirement, FTB does not require an exact measurement. In fact, for imports, they will accept a barrel length rounded up to the next whole number.

Barrel Lengths- Rifles and Shotguns

- Importers should make a good faith effort to determine the barrel length of the long gun. We will accept the manufacturer's specifications as long as they meet the minimum requirements.
- We will not accept "Over 18", "16+" etc. as proper barrel lengths must be recorded on the Form 6.

Contact Information

Martinsburg Facility Address & Telephone Numbers:

244 Needy Road

Martinsburg, WV 25405

Telephone Number: (304) 616-4550

Facsimile Number: (304) 616-4551

NIA Facsimile Number: (304) 616-4554

William E. Majors: Imports Branch Chief (304) 616-4589

Specialist Wonjiri M. Ridley is coordinator of the E-Form 6 Project.

Examiner Kimberly Burkhart is assigned to the processing of the NIA Form 6.

Our Customer Service Contractors are Sandra Rush and Carrie Fishel.